

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice and amend claims 9, 10, 12 and 15-17 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 cancelled

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Previously Amended) A method for manufacturing electronic devices
* obtained by equipping with electronic component chips on a printed circuit board ~~and~~
~~so forth~~, comprising the steps of:

supplying a plurality of electronic component chips in an aligned relationship;
and cleaning outer surfaces of the electronic component chips;

wherein said step of supplying a plurality of electronic component chips
comprises the steps of:

supplying a plurality of electronic component chips by a hopper;
transferring a plurality of electronic component chips by a buffer portion; and
feeding a plurality of electronic component chips one at a time by a chute
portion disposed in the rear stage of the buffer portion,

and wherein said step of cleaning outer surfaces of the electronic component
chips is provided between said step of transferring a plurality of electronic
component chips by a buffer portion and said step of feeding a plurality of electronic
component chips by a chute portion.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 8, wherein said step of cleaning ~~external-electrodes~~ outer surfaces of the electronic component chips comprises a process of grinding outer surfaces of electronic component chips.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the process of grinding ~~external-electrodes~~ outer surfaces of electronic component chips is carried out with an abrasive belt and a driving source for driving the abrasive belt.

Claim 11. (Original) A method according to Claim 10, wherein said step of transferring a plurality of electronic component chips is provided with a transferring belt for transferring electronic component chips and the transferring belt serves as well as the abrasive belt.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 8, wherein said step of cleaning ~~external-electrodes~~ outer surfaces of the electronic component chips is performed by washing outer surfaces of electronic component chips using a washing liquid.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of cleaning outer surfaces of the electronic component chips comprises a process of grinding outer surfaces of electronic component chips.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of cleaning outer surfaces of the electronic component chips is performed by washing outer surfaces of electronic component chips using a washing liquid.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said step of cleaning ~~external-electrodes~~ outer surfaces of the electronic component chips is performed by washing outer surfaces of electronic component chips using a washing liquid.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein said step of cleaning ~~external-electrodes~~ outer surfaces of the electronic component chips is performed by washing outer surfaces of electronic component chips using a washing liquid.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein said step of cleaning ~~external-electrodes~~ outer surfaces of the electronic component chips is performed by washing outer surfaces of electronic component chips using a washing liquid.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing electronic devices obtained by at least maintaining electronic component chips on a printed circuit board, comprising the steps of:

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① supplying a plurality of electronic component chips in an aligned relationship,
wherein aligned electronic component chips are taken out one at a time from
a chute portion connected to a buffer portion, and
② cleaning external electrodes of the electronic component chips.